

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: RO, ETRD, IS, EEWT, PINT, OTRA (KLUTZNICK, PHILIP), XF
SUBJ: VISIT OF WJC PRESIDENT KLUTZNICK TO ROMANIA, JANUARY 13-15,
1978
REF: STATE 4745

1. DURING 3-DAY VISIT ROMANIA, PHILIP KLUTZNICK, NEW PRESIDENT OF WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, FOUND THAT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU CONTINUED TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE WEST, ESPECIALLY THE U.S., AND THAT HE WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST. KLUTZNICK, WHO WAS HERE WITH MR. KAPLAN, THE WJC'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY, RECEIVED HIGH-LEVEL VIP TREATMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL VILLA, CAR, AND VISIT TO PRESIDENT'S MOUNTAIN LODGE IN PREDEAL WHERE THEY HAD SEVERAL HOURS OF TALKS. IN ADDITION, KLUTZNICK ATTENDED OPENING OF NEW JEWISH MUSEUM IN BUCHAREST AND RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR BY CHIEF RABBI MOSES ROSEN JANUARY 14, WITH AMBASSADORS OF U.S. AND ISRAEL, ORTHODOX PATRIARCH, OTHER ORTHODOX AND PROTESTANT DIGNITARIES AND GOR DEPARTMENT OF CULTS REP ALSO PRESENT.

2. KLUTZNICK, WHO HAD VISITED ROMANIA SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE,
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TOLD AMBASSADOR CEAUSESCU PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ROMANIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AND FELT THAT THERE WERE YET UNEXPLOITED AREAS OF ROMANIAN-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION. KLUTZNICK SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT ROMANIANS WERE CONTINUING THEIR ACTIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. HE FOUND CEAUSESCU WELL INFORMED ON DETAILS OF PROBLEMS AND THAT HE KEPT HIS LINES OPEN NOT ONLY OPEN BUT BUSY WITH ALL PARTIES CON-

CERNED IN THE CONFLICT.

3. KLUTZNICK SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY OPTIMISITIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE. HE FELT SOME OF ISRAEL'S MOST CREATIVE MINDS WERE NOW INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SADAT'S INITIATIVE HAD BROADENED HUMAN CONTACTS BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF. NOW HE FELT THAT AT LEAST A PARTIAL SETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE AND STEADY MOVEMENT TOWARDS AN ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE.

4. KLUTZNICK SAID THAT ROMANIA'S RECORD ON STATUS OF JEWISH POPULATION AND EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL IS PROBABLY BETTER THAN ESTIMATED IN SOME U.S. JEWISH AND CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES. HE FOUND FOR EXAMPLE THAT THE AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COULD OPERATE MORE WIDELY HERE THAN IN HUNGARY.

5. KULTZNICK IS CONSIDERING SECOND TRIP TO ROMANIA IN FEBRUARY EN ROUTE TO OR FROM ISRAEL. HE DID NOT COMPLETE HIS ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WITH CEAUSESCU AND HE FEELS HE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOOD RAPPORT AND RECEPTIVITY HE ENJOYS WITH PRESIDENT. IN MOST RECENT TALKS HE FOUND CEAUSESCU MORE RELAXED, OPEN AND CANDID THAN EVER BEFORE.
AGGREY

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